

Content providers (i.e. Hollywood studios, et al.) have protested consumer recording of copyrighted material since the advent of VHS recording. They whined about VHS, they whined about DVD, now they're whining about HDTV recorders.

In reality, they came to rely on VHS to make their movies profitable, and they now make a great deal of money from VHS. They are now making great deals of money from DVD. They will make great deals of money from HDTV.

The public will not buy into a format they cannot record. They record for their collections (Americans are notorious collectors) and they record for time-shifting. If HDTV is not recordable, they won't buy it.

If the format is recordable and the public adopts it, the so-called "premium" content will come, just as it came to VHS, just as it came to DVD.

Piracy, especially posting of copyrighted material to the internet, is a crime. The criminals will not be deterred by copy protection. Only the law-abiding, non-technical citizen who wants to watch *E.R.* at 7:00 p.m. the next evening instead of at 10:00 p.m. tonight will be harmed.

Why has no one gone after the posters of copyrighted material? Well-publicized \$250,000 fines against individuals will go a long way toward eliminating illegal posting. More serious pirates will need to be dealt jail time, as they are now.

If some sort of copy protection is deemed necessary, the **worst** thing the FCC could do, the thing that would have the greatest stifling effect on adoption of HDTV by the public, would be to mandate a new interface such as DVI that would make existing HDTV sets obsolete.

I have an "HD-ready" television. I will not buy a set top box or satellite box that will not connect to my television. Period.

My plea to the FCC is this: Remember the public. Give them a good, useable product and they'll buy it. Content may be limited at first, but it will grow as content providers chase profits by releasing "premium" content to HDTV just as they came to release it to VHS and DVD.

If the FCC wants to mandate something to encourage the adoption of DTV, it should mandate that television manufacturers market smaller (20-36") widescreen televisions to the US consumer, as they do for consumers in Europe, Australia and elsewhere.

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